

Winter Storms 2005

Status of Federal Assistance to the homeowner and/or business

The following information is provided regarding available funds for residential properties that experienced damage related to our recent storm event.

As you may be aware, on Friday, February 4, 2005, President Bush declared a Major Disaster for the 2005 Winter Storms. This declaration did not provide assistance to the homeowner or business. The declaration did provide for reimbursement for eligible costs related to emergency response, debris removal, repairs to damaged roads, restoring flooded sewage systems, and repair of other public facilities damaged by the storms on public property.

Within the past several weeks the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and other legislators in our County have issued various letters to the President and FEMA requesting that San Bernardino be issued a Major Disaster Federal proclamation, which would include aid for the homeowner. We are told that FEMA is currently considering this request and we anticipate that we will hear the result of this request in the next several weeks. If we receive a Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster then Cost Recovery for home and or businesses will be available.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared an Emergency for San Bernardino County along with those other counties contiguous to Los Angeles and Ventura (Kern, Riverside, and Orange). This makes low interest loans available to qualifying homeowners and or businesses.

SBA loan officer(s) will be on hand at the following locations to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's Disaster Loan Program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application. The Office locations and hours are listed below:

Blue Jay Lake Arrowhead Library 27235 Hwy 189	Big Bear Lake Big Bear Lake City Hall, 39707 Big Bear Blvd.	San Bernardino San Bernardino Co. Government Center 385 North Arrowhead Avenue
Mondays & Tuesdays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Starting February 28th	Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Starting March 2nd	Fridays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Starting March 4th

Individual and businesses unable to visit SBA's Disaster Centers may obtain information and loan applications by writing to SBA at PO Box 41900, Sacramento, CA 95841, or by calling toll free (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683.

If we do get a Major Disaster Declaration for individual Assistance to homeowners then tele-registration numbers will be available and there will be additional information on how to file/submit a claim for damages for individual homeowners and businesses.